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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6562

INFO RUEHDL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY 0284

RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 1681

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RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 2825

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 003128

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/20/2016

TAGS: PREL PGOV UN YI SR IT

SUBJECT: KOSOVO: AHTISAARI, D'ALEMA AGREE TO NO FURTHER DELAYS ON KOSOVO

REF: STATE 186217

Classified By: Classified by David D. Pearce, Political Minister Counselor, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Summary. UN Special Envoy for Kosovo Martti Ahtisaari visited Rome to discuss the future of Kosovo with PM Prodi and FM D'Alema on November 17. D'Alema agreed with Ahtisaari that the status decision on Kosovo should not be delayed further than the end of January. D'Alema told Ahtisaari that Italy would not push to delay the process until a Serbian government was formed after the January 2007 elections. Ahtisaari told D'Alema that his only regret would be that the status decision would not create a multi-ethnic Kosovo in the short term but would only provide the framework for a non-segregated society if the international community remained engaged in Kosovo. End summary.

¶2. (C) On November 17 UNOSEK Ahtisaari visited Rome to meet with PM Prodi and FM D'Alema. D'Alema told Ahtisaari that Italy supported a temporary delay in the status process for Kosovo until after the January 2007. He said Italy believes that UNOSEK decision between the elections and the formation of a government would not leave any politician or government vulnerable as a result of the decision. D'Alema also added that Italy would not seek any further delays in the process.

¶3. (C) Ahtisaari stated that he intended to press ahead with his work but added that he regretted the process would leave a segregated Kosovo, not a multi-ethnic society. He hoped that his plan could provide the framework for future generations to become less segregated but this would only happen if the international community remained engaged in Kosovo.

¶4. (C) Comment. D'Alema's pledge not to seek further delays in the status process comes as a relief. For months, the GOI has urged caution in the status process and at times seemed prepared to allow the issue to move as slowly as necessary to nudge Serbia closer to the international community. D'Alema has now issued the final word on Italy's views on the timetable.

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